National Congress Bulletin

MARCH 1959 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 26, NO. 7

Dear P.T.A. President:

MY THOUGHTS TURN, as they often do, to you and your work in your own P.T.A. and in your own community. There are so many ideas I wish we could talk over together.

The month since I last sat in my breakfast nook writing to you has been a month of meetings for me. There was the annual meeting of the American Association of School Administrators in Atlantic City, one of the largest and most refreshing of educational conventions. Their emphasis this year centered on the creative arts, and it seemed to me courageous, timely, and needed. From the moment we were given the handsome and colorful programs until the last sound of Van Cliburn's music and his voice, as he spoke thoughtfully of the meaning of art in the lives of people, we were reminded that man does not live by bread alone, but also by beauty and inspiration. Man's soul is incomplete without the expression of those things created from the spirit and by the heart. I wish I could convey to you our impression of this young American musician's dignity as he spoke, of his own volition, of his deep convictions about art and its influence. We should be proud that our school administrators chose this time—a time when there are tremendous pressures to force our educational system into overemphasis on material sciences and mathematics—to speak out so clearly for the arts.

» Mrs. Parker visits the National Congress booth at the A.A.S.A. meeting. Congress publications in the exhibit show ways that "Strong Homes and Good Schools Go Hand in Hand" in the pursuit of excellence.

» Then last week, almost immediately after the A.A.S.A. convention, I attended a meeting centered on a study of the aims and intents of Russian Communists. It was, in spite of what I had known, startling to listen "person to person" to discussions by men who are devoting their lives to governmental, personal, and economic activities that bring them into direct contact with the Communist government and its adherents—to listen to men who say there can be no doubt that Russian dictators are intent upon world domination, and that any apparent deviation is strategy to obtain their final end, which is the subjugation of the person and his capacities to serve the state.

» Somehow the significance of these two meetings merged, almost explosively, in my mind, and I suddenly realized how well the National Congress had chosen its theme for these three years: "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness." Where but in the home can we give our boys and girls every opportunity to learn to appreciate the innumerable channels through which art and beauty flow. Where but in the home can we teach in full effectiveness the value of the precious freedom that is basic in our concept of government—a government that encourages each of us to find his true and greatest self and to assume the responsibility for the equal rights and privileges of everyone else.

» These are great and treasured gifts from our forefathers. May our homes help our children understand them so well that schools, not having to do it all later on, will need only to enrich and broadly apply those basic principles by which homes prepare their children for our nation's greatness.

» We P.T.A. people can encourage this as we provide programs that help parents to be better parents; form study groups that bring more wisdom into family relationships; and work for closer cooperation with the schools, so that education will not be a thing apart but an essential of the daily living afforded our children and our families.

» This talk with you has not been as specific as I always want it to be, but perhaps it will convey the thoughts I have as we work together to make better homes and schools and communities. Please give my kindest greetings to your officers, your chairmen, and your members.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. James C. Parker

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

© Sam Ferrell

• A poster used by the Westlawn Elementary School P.T.A. in Mobile, Alabama, during Membership Enrollment Month.

A Report: DOOR-TO-DOOR MISSION

▶ GOOD TIDINGS come from Mrs. Milton L. Wiener, national Membership chairman, as she reports some vital P.T.A. statistics: Texas and Utah have already exceeded their *final* membership figures of last year. Thirty-three other states show better January 15 membership standings than they did last year at this time, the highest increases being in California, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Ohio.

Mrs. Wiener's news is not all so welcome, however, for she reports current losses for the other states (as compared to January 15, 1958 figures). It may be that some of these shortcomings appear because treasurers failed to get state dues into the National Office by the January deadline. The number of dues counted, as you know, is also the number of memberships counted.

We hope the membership picture *is* better than it seems, but to make sure of our year's goal, Mrs. Wiener asks that you continue to "Knock on Every Door" to let others know about the united P.T.A. way of working for the welfare of all children. Whether or not your state has gone "over the top" in membership, now is the time to appraise the membership situation in your own P.T.A., where the parent-teacher lifeline begins.

Should you need "retooling" for your door-to-door contacts, there are several good sources of information and inspiration at your disposal: Mrs. Wiener's membership message in the June-July 1958 *National Congress Bulletin;* the national president's membership proclamation in the October issue of *National Parent-Teacher* or the September *Bulletin;* the report of the membership conference at the national convention, found in the last *Digest* or *Proceedings;* the membership plans of work in the *Manual;* and, for practical ideas on handling publicity, *P.T.A. Public Relations.*

Mrs. Wiener has asked for a 500,000 increase in membership by April 15, 1959. We can do it if you'll go on knocking on every door!

TO STRENGTHEN HOMES . . . PROMOTE *National Parent-Teacher*

• THE NATIONAL CONGRESS' new Action Program, "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness," to be launched at the national convention in May, gives *National Parent-Teacher* another opportunity to expand its service on behalf of children and youth. Certainly parent-teacher groups have no finer tool for "strengthening homes"!

To make sure their members will have the magazine to use in the months to come, P.T.A.'s will need to promote *National Parent-Teacher* in every possible way. The following slogans, for example, may give you an idea or so for drawing attention to your subscription enrollment. Use them (or one that you like particularly) in P.T.A. newsletters or news sheets, in flyers, in letters to parents—in fact, in any and every communication sent out by the P.T.A. Use them, too, for emphasis on the posters you display in such public buildings as schools and libraries and at P.T.A. meetings, conferences, and workshops.

• • •

★ Looking for help in bringing up your children? You'll find it in *National Parent-Teacher.*

★ Wondering what is best for your child? Find the answers in *National Parent-Teacher.*

★ Help for puzzled parents • • • in *National Parent-Teacher.*

★ How up to date are you as a parent? *National Parent-Teacher* will keep you informed.

★ Could you be a better parent? Find out by reading *National Parent-Teacher.*

★ For parents with problems—*National Parent-Teacher.*

★ What is it worth to help your child find happiness? *National Parent-Teacher* brings expert guidance for only $1.50 a year.

★ If you love children, you'll enjoy *National Parent-Teacher.*

★ *National Parent-Teacher*—foundation for a happy home.

★ Every parent is a teacher. Prepare yourself with *National Parent-Teacher.*

★ To serve your family better—read *National Parent-Teacher.*

★ Enrich your home with *National Parent-Teacher.*

★ Keep in step with your child • • • with *National Parent-Teacher.*

★ For devoted parents, a magazine devoted to children—*National Parent-Teacher.*

★ *National Parent-Teacher:* A reliable guide for understanding children.

MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH

• Although many Red Cross chapters raise their funds in fall united community appeals, more than 2,500 chapters continue to conduct their annual campaign for members and funds in March. This year the Red Cross needs $95,000,000 to carry on its major programs: disaster, blood, first aid, water safety, and nursing services; services to the Armed Forces and to veterans; and international services.

▶ *Has your P.T.A. forwarded its state and national portions of all membership dues to the state treasurer?*

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Volume 26 MARCH 1959 Number 7

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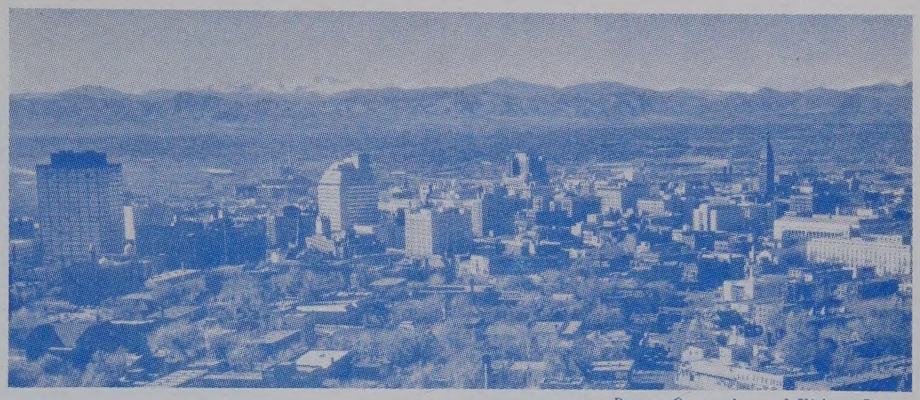
A view of Denver, the convention city, pictured before its backdrop of lofty mountains. ▶



Denver Convention and Visitors Bureau

Denver calls for CONVENTION and vacation

IN 1859 the discovery of gold in the Pikes Peak region sent pioneers surging across the plains to search for fortunes and to settle in the area of Denver. In May 1959, a century later, parent-teacher members also will be heading for Denver, but seeking wealth of a different kind—the inspiration, the information, and the ideas they need for carrying forward their important work.

As host for the National Congress' sixty-third annual convention, Denver will do its part to make the event a memorable one. It is truly a beautiful city, with the majestic Rockies as its backdrop, tree-lined boulevards, lovely parks and residential areas, and a Hospitality Center that welcomes all visitors. Adjoining Denver are twenty-six mountain parks of nearly 11,000 widespread acres, all owned and maintained by the city. Denver is a hospitable city, too, offering fine accommodations, unusual restaurants, and a variety of sight-seeing tours at varying rates.

P.T.A. delegates who plan pre- or post-convention side trips will find Denver within easy reach of any number of interesting *places to see*—Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, Rocky Mountain National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, to mention only a few—as well as *things to do*, which include such vacationtime fun as riding, golfing, fishing, hiking, camping, or just resting.

Because Colorado is observing its "Rush to the Rockies Centennial Celebration" this year, many special events are being scheduled all through 1959. If you would like to know how to plan your convention-vacation trip around them, write to Colorado Centennial, P.O. Box 1959, Denver 1, Colorado, and ask for "Rush to the Rockies" calendar.

PROGRAM BRIEFS—63d ANNUAL CONVENTION

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

• Denver, Colorado, May 17–20, 1959 •

Sunday May 17

4:00 p.m.—Organ recital. 4:30 p.m.—Vesper service: Address by the Reverend Reuben K. Youngdahl, pastor, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.
6:30 p.m.—National Life Members' buffet supper.
7:45 p.m.—Evening sing. 8:30—Pageant by Denver public schools.

Monday May 18

9:30 a.m.—General Meeting: Keynote address, Mrs. James C. Parker, president; *National Parent-Teacher* Magazine Awards, Mrs. Clifford N. Jenkins, chairman, board of directors.
2:00 p.m.—General meeting: Symposium, "Starting Point—Human Relationships." Participants, Robert J. Havighurst, professor of education, University of Chicago; Edward D. Greenwood, M.D., Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kansas; Douglas Bond, M.D., Western Reserve University; Frances L. Ilg, M.D., director, Gesell Institute of Child Development. Discussion leader, A. A. Liveright, director, Center for the Study of Liberal Education for Adults.
4:00 to 5:30 p.m.—Information centers conducted by national chairmen.
8:00 p.m.—General meeting: Address by Max Lerner, professor of American civilization, Brandeis University.

Tuesday May 19

7:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.—Election of officers.
9:30 a.m.—General meeting: Panel discussion, "How the P.T.A. Reinforces the Family." Participants, national chairmen of subject-matter committees. Moderator, Otto Yntema, Western Michigan University.
2:00 p.m.—General meeting: Symposium, "An Appraisal of the Parent-Teacher Partnership." Presentation, Martin Essex, president, American Association of School Administrators. Participants, J. C. Moffitt, second vice-president, National Congress; Paul J. Misner, superintendent of schools, Glencoe, Illinois; Kenneth Oberholtzer, superintendent of schools, Denver, Colorado. Commentators, regional vice-presidents. Discussion leader, Thurman White, dean of Extension Division, University of Oklahoma.
4:00 to 5:30 p.m.—Information centers conducted by national chairmen.
8:00 p.m.—General meeting: Address by Harold D. Lasswell, professor of law, Yale University.

Wednesday May 20

9:00 a.m.—General meeting: Report of resolutions committee. Addresses: Ruth Stout, president, National Education Association; Anand Malik, visiting professor of education, University of Idaho.
2:00 p.m.—General meeting: Address by Evelyn Millis Duvall, author and lecturer on marriage and family life.
3:30 to 5:00 p.m.—Information centers conducted by national chairman.
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.—Area dinners.
8:30 p.m.—General meeting: Address by Marguerite Higgins, journalist, recipient of Pulitzer Prize.

• See the April *Bulletin* for further convention details.

• Reservation blanks for Denver hotel rooms have been prepared for convention delegates' particular convenience. Write to your state office for the copy that's waiting there for you.

at the A.A.S.A. Annual Meeting

ONE of the important events each year is the meeting of the American Association of School Administrators. And again this year, in Atlantic City, the president of the National Congress delivered greetings from the parent-teacher organization and participated in programs. At one session in which "The Rightful Roles of Boards of Education, P.T.A.'s, and Citizens Councils" was discussed, Mrs. Parker presented the P.T.A. point of view. Other national officers and state congress presidents who attended also had opportunities to discuss the home-school partnership with school administrators from all parts of the country.

The following thought-provoking quotations, taken from speeches given at general meetings and work conferences, were keyed to the theme of "Education and the Creative Arts."

• • •

• BOYS AND GIRLS MUST BE GUIDED to develop the ability to distinguish what is true from what is false or biased; to recognize an author's motives and the presence of propaganda devices; to suspend judgment until all facts have been assembled for consideration; to integrate and organize information in order to arrive at sound conclusions.

—MARY C. AUSTIN, lecturer on education, Harvard University

• JUST AS DISCOVERING the beauty of a piece of music can give one pleasure, so discovering for oneself the harmonies of nature can give intense enjoyment. . . One teacher can bring to hundreds of students in any field the thrill of learning, the excitement of finding out new things, the majesty and beauty of the achievement of the human spirit.

—LEE A. DuBRIDGE, president, California Institute of Technology

• WHEN PRESSURES ARE OPERATING in a community, the P.T.A. cannot simply sit on its views while opposing forces scale the ramparts. The P.T.A. has a duty to fight for what it believes is good, sound, and right in education.

—MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, president, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

• IF WE ARE GOING TO RAISE education in our national scale of values. . . we must act in CONCERT. Citizen groups must cooperate with school authorities in every way possible. But this does not mean that we must always agree. In fact, half the value of citizen action is lost if it is not based solidly on independent thought and conviction.

—HENRY TOY, JR., president, National Citizens Council for Better Schools

• WHAT SORT OF FAMILY are you raising? Will the children ever be exposed to a reasonably penetrating idea at home? We all think of ourselves as citizens of a great democracy. Democracies can exist, however, only as long as they remain intellectually alive.

—JOHN CIARDI, poetry editor, *Saturday Review*, and professor of English, Rutgers University

• AN EDUCATION SYSTEM that produces thoroughly mature, well-adjusted men and women, capable of living free and happy lives, will also produce men and women keen to develop and use their talents in work of value to the community.

—GEOFFREY LLOYD, British Minister of Education

• CREATIVITY REQUIRES QUIET; it cannot occur in the midst of incessant clatter and chatter that fill the mind with trivialities and make concentration practically impossible.

—RUTH STRANG, professor of education, Teachers College, Columbia University

• IT WILL NOT SUFFICE for us to merely assign ten algebra problems instead of five. . . . we must find ways to make assignments in a manner that teaches intellectual inquiry, the use of source materials, and the power to interpret with critical accuracy.

—KENNETH W. LUND, superintendent of schools, Oak Park and River Forest High School District, Illinois

• SINCE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM is an inevitable feature of human life—that is, since the resources of the world are scarce and do not satisfy all the wants of mankind—the study of economics is a necessary part of the basic education of all people.

—GALEN JONES, director, Council for Advancement of Secondary Education

• PERHAPS IT IS DESIRABLE. . . to consider any child as "gifted" whose performance in a valuable line of human activity is consistently or repeatedly remarkable. Abundant opportunities should be offered in both home and school for the release and expression of such abilities.

—PAUL A. WITTY, professor of education, Northwestern University

• ONE OF THE TREMENDOUS problems ahead of us is the acceptance by the American people of the fact that money spent on education is an investment—not an assessment.

—JOHN F. LOCKE, director, community relations, public schools, Cincinnati

1959 RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS to be acted upon by the 1959 national convention are now being accepted by the resolutions committee. Units and branches may send suggested resolutions to Resolutions Committee, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. To be considered, resolutions must be received not later than April 17, 1959.

The following members of the Executive Committee have been appointed by the president to serve on the resolutions committee: Mrs. C. Meredith Springer, chairman, and J. C. Moffitt, Mrs. Daniel W. Richardson, Mrs. J. Zebulon Watkins, and Mrs. Milton L. Wiener.

In accordance with *Policies and Practices*, each resolution submitted by National Congress units and branches will be acknowledged by the resolutions committee, and the committee will submit all resolutions to the Executive Committee with its recommendations.

Pan American Day

• Pan American Day, April 14, gives Americans of the twenty-one nations of the Western Hemisphere a chance to reaffirm their friendship and their concern for one another's welfare. United through the Organization of American States, which was set up in 1890, these nations are striving together for the peace, security, and betterment of their peoples.

For suggestions on how to observe Pan American Day in your community, write the Office of Public Relations, Pan American Union, Washington 6, D. C.

Community Action Against Polio

MORE THAN HALF our population is not yet protected against polio, although the vaccine, which gives effective protection, is available.

There is urgent need for *organized community action against polio*, and the cooperation of local community leaders is urgently sought. Such community action, the National Health Council says, offers the only real hope that the extensive work already done and now being intensified will result in the fullest possible protection of individuals, families, and communities.

► *ARE YOU MAKING SURE your members will be equipped with the materials they'll need—**Guiding Children as They Grow** and every issue of **National Parent-Teacher**—when your state launches its plans for the National Congress Action Program?*

CONVENTION SUNDAY MAY 17

★Special for All of Us

SUNDAY at the national convention offers National Congress Life Members a once-a-year, happy opportunity to get together. This, combined with the day's inspirational vesper service and time to get a first view of the exhibits, makes convention Sunday rather special for all of us.

This year will be no exception, and it is my sincere hope that I'll have the privilege of meeting a good many Life Members at the informal Sunday evening gathering in Denver on May 17. With its wonderful opportunities to renew old friendships and to form new ones with new Members, this evening is one I always anticipate with a great deal of pleasure.

It's always thrilling, too, to greet the newly elected state presidents who are wearing their National Life Membership pins. It is gratifying to note that practically all state presidents are so honored. Surely no one deserves this honor more than they.

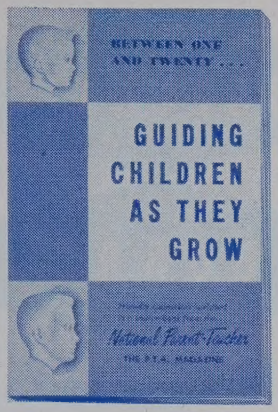
Do you know of any other persons who should be given the high honor of National Life Membership now? Why not award it to the principal of your school or to another outstanding leader in your community? It's not too late to demonstrate your appreciation if you have planned to pay tribute to a person who is striving to make this a better world for children. If the awards are made before May 1, the names of the honorees will be posted prominently at the convention.

Attendance at the Life Membership meeting is mounting each year because this traditional affair has become so popular. Hence the special reservation blank should be filled out and returned as soon as possible after it is received.

We are looking forward to a happy time at this gathering and to the pleasure of greeting our honored friends.

MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD
A Director of the Endowment Fund
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

FOR ALL WHO CHERISH CHILDREN



Brand new.
Pocket-size.
Paper-bound.
256 pages.

ONE PAGE in the front of this new National Congress source book bears just two lines. They read, "Dedicated to all children and all who cherish them." In these lines lies a world of meaning that is brilliantly clear to parent-teacher workers. For it is you who not only cherish children above all else, but seek to assure to them the wise, loving care and guidance they need. Hence the book is dedicated to *you* as well as to them.

For more than half a century the *National Parent-Teacher* has been a fount from which has flowed a steady stream of helpful, sound information about children and the world in which they live. Its pages have been rich with counsel from this nation's outstanding authorities in many and varied fields—psychology, psychiatry, pediatrics, school education, religion, and the social sciences.

It was only natural that over the years the *National Parent-Teacher* should accumulate an unexcelled store of information on children's growth and guidance. It was only natural, too, that from this tested knowledge should be culled a handy, compact book to which adults can turn readily and with confidence.

Guiding Children as They Grow is the first such source book to be built from material that has appeared in the *National Parent-Teacher*. In it you will find forty-two perceptive chapters, conveniently grouped with reference to three age levels—preschool, school-age, and adolescent. The first section ranges from "The Importance of Untroubled Babyhood," by Benjamin Spock, M.D., and "Can We Predict a Child's Intelligence?" by Nancy Bayley to "Why Not Enjoy Your Children?" by Catharine W. Menninger and William C. Menninger, M.D. The school-age section begins with chapters on such important subjects as discipline and the time children need to themselves, and takes you up to the junior high age. "Agenda for Adolescents," by Lawrence K. and Mary H. Frank, opens the third section, and it ends with a chapter on the problem of immaturity in youthful marriages.

Guiding Children as They Grow comes off the press just in time to help you carry out the Action Program, "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness." Orders are coming in at such a clip that the book is already going into a second printing. You can order your copy from your state congress or from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. The price is $1.00.

RADIO 750 AWARD

Presented to

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS & TEACHERS

By

WSB Radio

"The Voice of the South"

Atlanta, Georgia

In Recognition of Achievement as the Top Headline Maker of the Day on WSB Five-Star Final News

FEBRUARY 17, 1959

• On Founders Day, February 17, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was "top headline maker of the day" on the Five-Star Final News broadcast by radio station WSB in Atlanta, Georgia.

NATO'S Tenth Birthday

• On April 4 the United States will commemorate the tenth anniversary of an important event in its history: the signing of the treaty that gave birth to NATO—the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The fifteen nations that belong to this peacetime military alliance have pledged that attack upon any one of them, whether in Europe or North America, will be regarded as an attack upon all and will be resisted by all. The partners in NATO have also pledged themselves to work together in the political, social, educational, scientific, and economic fields.

NATO members in addition to the United States are Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Looking for inspiration in your P.T.A. work?
Come to the national convention. . . Denver, May 17–20.

P.T.A. BULLETIN BOARD

BRIEF ITEMS OF CURRENT INTEREST

FOR AND ABOUT P.T.A.'S

- **A NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP** and pin were presented to Mrs. Sylvia D. Allen, school principal, as a meaningful token of the appreciation felt by the Bucknell Elementary School P.T.A. (Alexandria, Virginia). A resolution by the unit's executive board cited Mrs. Allen's "important role in the cooperative planning, implementation, and continued guidance of all programs conducted by the Bucknell Elementary School P.T.A., seeking always to ensure their consonance with the recognized objectives and policies governing such operations."

• Kenneth C. Drake, president of the Bucknell P.T.A. in Alexandria, Virginia, presents Mrs. Sylvia D. Allen, principal, with a National Life Membership from the unit. Others in the picture are (left) A. L. Bonner, immediate past president, and Melton D. Haney, also a former president.

- **"LOOKING IN ON YOUR SCHOOL,"** the new National Congress fact-finding guide, provided the subject matter for one program of the telecast series, *This Is Your P.T.A.*, sponsored by the Minnesota Congress over station KTCA–TV. The panel-discussion program was moderated by Harry M. Reynolds, a past state president.

- **FORUMS ON EDUCATIONAL PLANNING,** sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Department of Public Instruction, encourage educational and civic organizations to participate in setting up educational programs. Representatives of 18 such organizations, among them the Pennsylvania Congress of Parents and Teachers, are invited to the forums to learn about the state department's plans and projects and to evaluate them. Delegates in turn describe their own projects and receive suggestions and guidance from the department.

- **THE TOWN MEETING** held by the Santa Barbara (California) High School P.T.A. last spring aroused so much public interest that the city superintendent of schools offered to set up a schedule of town meetings in each school during the 1958–59 school year.

- **TWO HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOPS** sponsored by the Maryland Congress gave senior and junior high school principals and P.T.A. presidents throughout the state an opportunity to discuss what should be done to stimulate parent-teacher activity at the high school level. The workshops featured a morning general session, under the direction of Mrs. C. Wheeler Detjen, national chairman of High School Service, and afternoon workshop sessions.

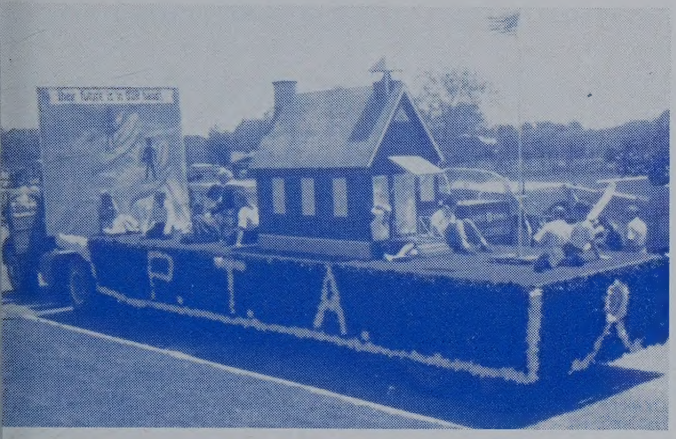
- **FOR THE SECOND YEAR** both the mother and the father of every child attending the St. Andrews Elementary School in Charleston, South Carolina, is enrolled in the P.T.A. Total membership is 1,350, reports Mrs. James Amerson, unit membership chairman.

- **TWO P.T.A. LEADERS** were among the women who received 1958 Carol Lane Awards, given annually by the National Safety Council (through a business organization grant) to individual women or to parents' or women's clubs that have carried out the most effective traffic safety programs during the year. Mrs. Arvil L. Stark, formerly safety chairman of the Utah Congress, was awarded first place among the individual winners for her efforts in planning and directing a teen-age traffic safety conference. Third place individual winner was Mrs. Marian R. Steffens of the Lakewood, Ohio, Council, who was in charge of the council's bicycle safety campaign.

- **AN ATTENDANCE RECORD** was set by the Allen County P.T.A. (Third District, Kentucky) at its first gathering of the year, when 500 out of its 521 members attended a potluck supper meeting at the new elementary school.

- **A HEALTH FAIR** sponsored by the Nettelhorst P.T.A. (Chicago) acquainted parents with school health facilities and services of health and social service agencies. Twenty neighboring P.T.A.'s, twenty-three local and national health agencies, and several departments of the board of education cooperated in the project. The all-day event featured exhibits and movies on health subjects; a question box, with answers by William Bolton, M.D., Bureau of Health Education, American Medical Association; first-aid demonstrations; and a speech by John Lester Reichert, M.D., on "Physical Factors and Health Needs of Children."

● **THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION** of Union Township, New Jersey, pointed up some fine cooperative efforts, as local P.T.A.'s played prominent roles in the festivities. They entered a colorful float in the parade, set up a booth in the high school gym highlighting P.T.A. activities and publications, and held a special P.T.A. night, at which four *National Parent-Teacher* subscriptions were given as door prizes.



● The P.T.A. float that took part in the parade held during Union Township's sesquicentennial celebration.

● **A JUVENILE PROTECTION PROJECT** of the Palmetto (Florida) P.T.S.A. that is attracting a great deal of attention in the community is its program of naming a high school "Boy and Girl of the Week." Selections are made by a committee of two parents, two teachers, and two students, on the basis of such qualities as courtesy to other students, friendly attitude toward new students, fair play, good sportsmanship, and helpfulness in school projects. Each week the winning students are announced and interviewed over radio station WSRD.

● **THE WEST VIRGINIA CONGRESS** awards a School Lunch Certificate to each association whose efforts on behalf of the school lunch program meet certain standards of achievement. Units are encouraged to support the school lunch program by appointing a school lunch chairman, who first discusses with the principal how the P.T.A. can cooperate; by having one P.T.A. program or perhaps a study course on proper nutrition and its importance; by explaining to parents the value of the federal special milk program; and by giving publicity to the school lunch program.

● **THE PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM** of the Tennessee Congress is making rapid strides, reports Mrs. J. W. Tamblyn, state parent education chairman, in the *Tennessee Parent-Teacher*. The congress emphasizes the training of discussion leaders and each summer holds a leadership workshop. The last meeting was attended by 111 persons, among them 11 of the 15 district presidents. As a result, parent education was featured at district meetings throughout the state in the fall. In the sixth district, for instance, on "Parent Education Promotion Day," district and other trained leaders helped to carry out a program designed to show council and local unit representatives how to organize and conduct parent education discussion programs.

● **THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM** was the subject of study and discussion at a joint meeting of three P.T.A.'s in Hastings, Michigan—Southeastern, Northeastern, and Central. The audience divided into sections, with resource people and parents participating in each, and then reassembled to hear reports from the various group recorders. The value of teaching foreign languages in the elementary grades, the addition of more special classes, and the extension of counseling and guidance programs to the junior high school and elementary grades were among the topics discussed.

● **A MEMBERSHIP–ATTENDANCE AWARD,** a striking blue and gold banner, is given by Kentucky's first district each year to the unit that (1) has the largest percentage of mothers and fathers (based on families represented in the school) enrolled as P.T.A. members *plus* (2) the largest percentage of members attending meetings during the year (on an average basis). If any unit retains the top rating for three consecutive years, the banner becomes its own property.

● **A HISTORY COMMITTEE** has been set up by the Punahou School P.T.A., Honolulu, Hawaii, to prepare annual reports and five-year summaries covering the unit's 45-year history and to organize an archives file for safekeeping of records. Another project of the unit is the compiling of procedure books for its officers. These books of job descriptions, duties, minutes of meetings, bylaws, and annual reports will be passed on from year to year.

● **ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE P.T.A.'s** in Georgia, according to Mrs. Joseph Spano, fifth district director, is that of the Omaha Elementary School, a one-teacher school. Although the unit has only sixteen members, every family is represented, and the association is always among the first to meet requirements, says Mrs. Spano. The unit recently awarded a state life membership to Ruth Lee, its teacher, who has taught youngsters in the school for more than thirty years. A full-page story in the Columbus *Sunday Ledger-Enquirer Magazine* was dedicated to "Miss Ruth" and her memorable years of association with the school and the P.T.A.

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● Teacher Ruth Lee rings the bell to bring in her lively pupils from recess playtime.

COUNCILS IN ACTION . . .

P.T.A. SERVICES ARE UNITED THROUGH COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND COOPERATION

Elsmere-Erlanger Council • Kentucky • So that P.T.A.'s could take a good look at themselves from the teacher's viewpoint, the council drew up a questionnaire and sent it to all teachers in the school district. The questions, based on material in the National Congress publication *A Teacher's Guide to the P.T.A.*, asked for suggestions on such subjects as how the teacher's job could be made more popular and enjoyable, how better parent-teacher-student relations might be fostered, and what could be done to build better P.T.A. programs. A summary of the answers, presented at the next council meeting, gave council delegates many good ideas to carry back and put to work in their local units.

• A workshop for local leaders held by the Anderson Council, Columbia, South Carolina, included conferences on programs, hospitality, budget and finance, parliamentary procedure, and Congress publications. Some of those who led the workshop were (from left) Mrs. J. A. Henry, first vice-president, South Carolina Congress; Mrs. H. Sanford Howie, president, district one; Mark Hawthorne, superintendent, District 5 school; Roy Brown, president, Anderson Council; Mrs. George Keith, treasurer, district one; Mrs. W. E. Cochran, chairman, Pickens County P.T.A. planning committee; Mrs. Colquitt Sims, president, and Mrs. John Brookshire, vice-president, North Anderson P.T.A. (Note the publications display in the background.)

Kenosha Council • Wisconsin • The Kenosha Elementary School Clinic came into being because one parent wished out loud that his child could have additional help in reading during summer vacation. Members of the Kenosha Council reported this comment to the director of elementary education and conferred with him about the possibility of summer classes. The board of education approved the project (to be run on a fee basis), teachers were contacted, and a flyer was sent out to parents whose children the teachers felt could use additional help. The council also did all the detail work of tabulating the returned flyers and registering pupils at each school—around four hundred of them the first summer.

Aurora Council • Colorado • Legislative luncheons sponsored by the council are well attended by local P.T.A. presidents and legislative chairmen, principals and teachers, and council officers and chairmen. Regular speaker at the luncheons is William C. Hinkley, superintendent of School District 28-J.

As another of its projects this year, the council is presenting to each newly organized unit an attractive gavel, an "in-office" president's pin, and a copy of *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.*

Salt Lake City Council • Utah • A youth conference sponsored by the council had a threefold objective: (1) to provide students with an opportunity to identify the problems they face at home, at school, and in society; (2) to give them opportunity to discuss these problems freely; and (3) to make their conclusions available to fellow students, teachers, parents, and others in the community. Plans for the conference were initiated by the council's juvenile protection committee, with the full support of the superintendent of schools.

Each home room in four senior high schools and ten junior high schools selected a delegate to the conference to present its opinions and submit its questions. After general assembly singing, welcoming addresses, and keynote speeches, the students gathered in discussion groups, each with a student chairman. Group decisions and ideas were pooled later on in the general meeting, and each of the 472 delegates went back to his own home room equipped to report on the findings of the conference.

Washington County Council • Tennessee • To make sure that every child in Washington County was immunized against communicable diseases, the council, in cooperation with schools and local health centers, set off a county-wide program of action. A schedule for inoculations was set up at the schools and health centers. P.T.A. members helped to notify parents of the program and to alert them to the importance of observing the state department of education's urgent request that their children —both preschool and school age—be immunized against diphtheria, smallpox, whooping cough, and polio.